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FEB 1950
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GENERAL

1. French views on Indochina--According to US Ambassador Bruce in Paris, Parodi, Secretary of the French Foreign Office, is very "gloomy" about the implications for Indochina of recent Soviet actions. Parodi is inclined to believe that the Chinese Communists will grant strong support in equipment and technicians to the Vietnamese guerrilla leader Ho Chi Minh and that they may even launch a direct military assault against Indochina. Parodi stated that the French, in either case, could not withstand indefinitely and that his Government was planning to make inquiries concerning US intentions if such developments should materialize.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the Chinese Communists can make substantial military supplies available to Ho Chi Minh but that they are unlikely to send a major military force into Indochina.)

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State Dept. review completed

Document No. 28
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
[] DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)
Date: 16 MAR 1978 By:
Auth: CIA REG. 77/1733
Date: 16 MAR 1978 By:

25X1

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